

19. The recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein of Claim 18, having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

20. An isolated DNA molecule having or containing a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 3.

21. A recombinant vector comprising a DNA sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 3.

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22. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of inflammation in mammals, including humans, the composition comprising an anti-inflammatory-effective amount of immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom, in combination with a pharmaceutically-suitable carrier.

23. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 22, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein is recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein.

24. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 22, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein has an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

25. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 22, which is a composition for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

26. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of inflammation in mammals, including humans, the composition comprising an anti-inflammatory-effective amount of a DNA encoding immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or an anti-inflammatory fragment derived therefrom, in combination with a pharmaceutically-suitable carrier.

27. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 26, wherein the DNA encoding immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein is recombinant DNA.

28. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 26, wherein the DNA encoding immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein has a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 3.

29. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 26, which is a composition for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

30. A method for treating inflammation in a mammalian subject in need thereof, including a human subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an amount of immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom, the amount being effective to ameliorate inflammation in the subject.

31. The method of Claim 30, which is a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis.

32. The method of Claim 30, wherein recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein is administered to the subject.

33. ~~The method of Claim 32, wherein recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID NO: 2 is administered to the subject.~~

34. The method of Claim 30, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein is administered orally, nasally, subcutaneously, or intravenously.

35. ~~A method for treating inflammation in a mammalian subject in need thereof, including a human subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an amount of a DNA encoding immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a fragment thereof, the amount being effective to ameliorate inflammation in the subject.~~

36. ~~The method of Claim 35, which is a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis.~~

37. ~~The method of Claim 35, wherein recombinant DNA encoding immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein is administered to the subject.~~

38. ~~The method of Claim 37, wherein recombinant DNA having a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 3 is administered to the subject.~~

39. ~~The method of Claim 35, wherein the DNA is administered orally, nasally, subcutaneously, or intravenously.~~

40.

A method for diagnosing the presence of rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian subject, including a human subject, the method comprising contacting a bodily fluid from the subject selected from the group consisting of whole blood, blood plasma, blood serum, saliva, mucus, synovial fluid, and cerebrospinal fluid, to immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom, and then ascertaining the presence or absence of anti-immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein antibodies in the bodily fluid tested, the presence of antibodies indicating the presence of rheumatoid arthritis in the subject.

41. The method of Claim 40, wherein the bodily fluid is contacted with recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein

42. The method of Claim 40, wherein the bodily fluid is contacted with Immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

43. The method of Claim 40, wherein the presence of anti-immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein antibodies is ascertained using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) incorporating immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom.

44. A kit for diagnosing the presence of rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian subject, including a human subject, the kit comprising:

an amount of immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein  
or a peptide derived therefrom, disposed in a suitable container.

45. The kit of Claim 44, further comprising instructions for use of the kit.

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The kit of Claim 44, comprising recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom.

47. The kit of Claim 44, comprising immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

48. The kit of Claim 44, comprising an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay that incorporates immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom.

49. The kit of Claim 48, comprising recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom.

50. The kit of Claim 48, comprising SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

51. The kit of Claim 44, comprising a Western Blot assay that incorporates immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom.

52. The kit of Claim 51, comprising recombinant immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein or a peptide derived therefrom.

53. The kit of Claim 51, comprising SEQ. ID. NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.--

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